

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-27, 29-39, and 41-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 5,867,654 of *Ludwig et al.* ("Ludwig").

Claims 7, 28, and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ludwig* and U.S. Patent no. 6,388,654 of *Platzker et al.* ("Platzker").

The examiner objected to claim 6 due to an informality. Applicant has corrected the informality in claim 6.

Applicant has amended the specification on pages 2, and 24-25 to correct typographical errors.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Ludwig* because *Ludwig* does not disclose communication among a set of rich media environments as claimed in amended claim 1. Instead, *Ludwig* discloses communication among a set of workstations. (*Ludwig*, elements 12.1-12.10 in Fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 60-64). It is submitted that a workstation as taught by *Ludwig* does not anticipate a rich media environment as claimed in amended claim 1 because a rich media environment as claimed in amended claim 1 includes an arrangement of sensing and rendering components for covering a set of individuals present in the rich media environment whereas a workstation as taught by *Ludwig* includes sensing and rendering components for covering an individual user of the workstation. (*Ludwig*, col. 6, lines 31-33). It is submitted that the sensing and rendering components of a workstation as taught by *Ludwig* are adapted for a desktop user and would be incapable of providing coverage for a set of individuals in a rich media environment as claimed in amended claim 1.

It is further submitted that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Ludwig* because *Ludwig* does not disclose detecting multiple communication interactions among a set of

individuals present in rich media environments as claimed in amended claim 1. This follows from the fact that *Ludwig* does not disclose rich media environments as claimed in amended claim 1. Moreover, it is submitted that the sensing and rendering components of a workstation as taught by *Ludwig*, i.e. a microphone and a speaker attached to a workstation (*Ludwig*, col. 6, lines 31-33), would be incapable of detecting multiple communication interactions among individuals present in a rich media environment as claimed in amended claim 1.

Moreover, it is submitted that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Ludwig* because *Ludwig* does not disclose capturing a set of media data from the sensing components for each of a set of interest threads and combining the captured media data in response to the activities of individuals associated with the interest threads and communicating the combined media data to the rendering components as claimed in amended claim 1. This follows from the fact that *Ludwig* does not disclose detecting multiple communication interactions as claimed in amended claim 1.

It is also submitted that amended claims 22 and 34 are not anticipated by *Ludwig*. Amended claims 22 and 34 include limitations similar to the limitations of amended claim 1. Therefore, the remarks stated above with respect to amended claim 1 also apply to amended claims 22 and 34.

Given that claims 2-6, 8-21, 23-27, 29-33, 35-39, and 41-45 depend from amended claims 1, 22, and 34, it follows that claims 2-6, 8-21, 23-27, 29-33, 35-39, and 41-45 are not anticipated by *Ludwig*.

It is further submitted that claims 7, 28, and 40 are not obvious in view of *Ludwig* and *Platzker*. Claims 7, 28, and 40 depend from amended claims 1, 22, and 34, respectively, and because *Ludwig* and *Platzker* do not disclose or suggest communication among rich media environments as claimed in amended claims 1, 22, and 34. Applicant has shown that *Ludwig* does not disclose communication among rich media environments

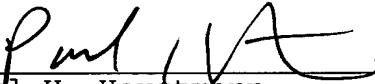
as claimed in amended claims 1, 22, and 34. *Platzker* teaches a system for combining changes made to whiteboards located at different sites (*Platzker*, col. 3, lines 17-29) rather than rich media environments having sensing and rendering components for covering individuals present in the rich media environments as claimed in amended claims 1, 22, and 34.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-27-05

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